Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has submitted a report to Government on organic farming and has made certain recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in view of the need for exports of organic food, specially in view of drop in exports of tea, rice and other farm products due to consumer resistance in the West on account of pesticide residue contamination.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation constituted a Technical Group to study the possibilities for promoting organic farming. The Team visited certain farms, research Institutions in States and made recommendations which are mostly theoretical and advisory in nature like suggestions to encourage the use of organic manures, green manures, biofertilisers and creation of awareness among farmers about the benefits of orgnaic farming, to encourage dairies among the landless labourers, adoption of approach of Integrated Pest Management and incentives for production of organic manures. The team also suggested that ICAR should take up the proposals to formulate package of practices for organic farming including use of compost and various methods of composing and may also organise training for extension workers and farmers in the methods to use biofertilisers and bio-pesticides etc.

(c) Exports of tea, rice etc. have not declined. Overall exports of agricultural commodities have been steadily increasing. With a view to discourage the excessive use of pesticides, Integrated Pest Management approach is being emhpasized by Government.

Setback to the proposal for Centre for Prawn Farming

4235. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious plank to turn the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu's Quid-e-Millat District into a major centre for Prawn Farming in the country, has suffered a major setback with agitating landless agricultural labourers bringing to a halt the work in most of the Prawn Farms there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that only three prawn farms in the Nagai-Quid-e-Millat district are facing some agitation from local people and by an organisation called "Land for the Tillers Freedom" (LAFTI). They have also informed that many a small prawn farms are coming up in the area without any opposition from this group of local people.

कमजोर वर्गों के पशुओं की दशा सुधारने हेतु प्रयास

4236. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने समाज के कमजोर वर्गों के पशुओं की दशा सुधारने हेतु प्रयास किये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस संबंध में किये गये प्रयासों का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) (1) कमजोर वर्गों के उच्च पैदावार वाले पशुधन को रोगमुक्त रखने के लिए उपयोग में लाए जाने वाले खुरपका और मुँहपका रोग के टीके की लागत राजसहायता प्राप्त होती है। यह लागत 50:25:25 के समानुपात में लाभानुभोगी, केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा वहन की जाती है। गत तीन वर्षों में इस प्रयोजन हेतु केन्द्र द्वारा राज्यों को निर्मुक्त की गयी धनराशि विवरण में दी गयी है (**नीचे देखिए**)।

(2) केन्द्र सरकार पशु-प्लेग, तपेदिक, संसर्गज गर्भस्राव (ब्रुसिलोसिस), स्वाइन फीवर, सफेद दस्त (पुलोरम) और रदनक रैबीज को नियंत्रित करने के लिए राज्यों को 50:50 के आधार पर सहायता दे रही है।